

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 449

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to commemorate April 2016 as "Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are community conditions and problems, and finding solutions depends on involvement among people in the community; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year, including nearly 17,000 children here in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the effects of child abuse and neglect are felt by whole communities and need to be addressed by the entire community; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, toxic stress, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) harm children's developing brains so profoundly that the effects show up decades later; they cause much of chronic disease, most mental illness, and are at the root of most violence; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect are preventable, and intervention can improve the lives of parents and children. Evidence-based parenting practices increase the health of parents and children; and

WHEREAS, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee and the Tennessee Children's Trust Fund are sponsoring several events throughout the month to heighten public awareness of abuse and neglect in communities around the state. These events will provide information and materials that support families to prevent child maltreatment and celebrate people who work with and support children and families; and

WHEREAS, a statewide "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign has been launched through the media, public schools, libraries, social service agencies, and businesses during the month of April to celebrate and bring awareness of the great potential of all children in Tennessee and the need to strengthen all families with support and nurturing; and

WHEREAS, the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign includes the planting of "Pinwheel Gardens" statewide, celebrating community partnerships for strengthening the family and protecting all children from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, all citizens should become more aware of the negative effects of child abuse and its prevention within the community and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate April 2016 as "Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month" in Tennessee and join in the effort to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.